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1743  
Patent  
Case No.: 56941US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: HEHENBERGER, RODNEY K.  
Application No.: 10/029355 Group Art Unit: 1743  
Filed: October 26, 2001 Examiner: Unknown  
Title: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION FOR  
STERILIZATION FACILITIES

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231 on:	
January 10, 2003 Date	<i>Colleen M. Wagner</i> Signed by: Colleen M. Wagner

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Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, enclosed is a completed Form PTO-1449 citing references submitted for consideration by the Examiner. A copy of each cited reference is also enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to indicate that each reference has been considered.

Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

A copy of the Search Report from a foreign counterpart application is enclosed.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

January 10, 2003  
Date

By: *[Signature]*  
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Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO (modified)  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary) JAN 21 2003 PATENT OFFICE	Application Number	10/029355
	Filing Date	October 26, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Hehenberger, Rodney K.
	Art Unit	1743
	Examiner Name	
	Attorney Case Number	56941US002

Page 1 of 1

U.S. Patent Documents					
Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date or Issue Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Doc. Number-(Kind Code if Known)			
	A1	US- 6,223,137 B1	04-24-2001	McCay et al.	
	A2	US-			
	A3	US-			
	A4	US-			
	A5	US-			
	A6	US-			
	A7	US-			
	A8	US-			
	A9	US-			
	A10	US-			
	A11	US-			

Foreign Patent Documents							
Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation (Check if yes)
		Ctry. Code	Number-KindCode (If known)				
	B1	JP	2000-107994	04-18-2000	Yuji et al.		
	B2	WO	99/66444	12-23-1999	Osborne et al.		
	B3						
	B4						
	B5						
	B6						
	B7						

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS		
Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published
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	C2	
	C3	

*Examiner:	Date Considered:
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	